



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

96-HOUR REPORT

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(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Nine Southern California Residents in International Sex Trafficking Ring

(U) Federal authorities have accused nine Southern California residents of participating in a large-scale, international sex trafficking ring that abused and enslaved hundreds of Thai women who had been recruited with promises of a better life in the US. The nine defendants were among 20 people arrested in Los Angeles, San Diego, Dallas, Austin, Houston and Chicago in connection with the sex trafficking and money laundering operation, according to the US attorney's office in Minnesota.

SOURCE: 28 May 2017, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) San Francisco – Hackers Hide Cyberattacks in Social Media Posts

(U) Russian hackers made their way into the computer of a Pentagon official via a link attached to a Twitter post put out by a robot account, which promised a family-friendly vacation package for the summer. It was the kind of thing anyone might click on, according to the official who was the victim of the attack. Pentagon officials are increasingly worried that state-backed hackers are using social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook to break into Defense Department computer networks.

SOURCE: 28 May 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Bin Laden's Son Steps Into Father's Shoes as al-Qa'ida Attempts Comeback

(U) Washington – The recording of Hamza bin Laden, the son of Osama bin Laden, that first aired on 13 May is one in a string of recent pronouncements by the man who many terrorism experts regard as the new face of al-Qa'ida's global network. Posted two weeks before the recent suicide bombing in Manchester, England, the message includes a specific call for attacks on European and North American cities to avenge the deaths of Syrian children killed in airstrikes. The recording provides fresh evidence of ominous changes within al-Qa'ida, according to US, European and Middle Eastern intelligence officials and terrorism experts.

SOURCE: 27 May 2017, [New York Times](#)

(U) Mississippi – Sheriff's Deputy Among Eight Killed in Mississippi Shootings, Police Say

(U) Brookhaven – Eight people were killed, including a sheriff's deputy, after shootings on Saturday night in multiple homes in rural Mississippi. Investigators told the Associated Press that police responded to a call about a domestic dispute and that the shootings occurred at two homes. A suspect is in custody, but no charges have been filed, according to the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation. The fallen deputy was identified as William Durr, 36, who had been with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office for two years.

SOURCE: 28 May 2017, [Washington Post](#)

(U) New York – WannaCry Ransom Notice Analysis Suggests Chinese Link

(U) New York – New analysis suggests Chinese-speaking criminals may have been behind the WannaCry ransomware that affected thousands of organizations worldwide. Researchers from Flashpoint looked at the language used in the ransom notice. The use of proper grammar and punctuation in only the

Chinese versions indicate the writer was “native or at least fluent” in Chinese, according to Flashpoint. The translated versions of the ransom notice appeared to be mostly machine translated. The WannaCry ransom note could be displayed in 28 different languages, but only the Chinese and English versions appeared to have been written by humans. The WannaCry cyber-attack infected more than 200,000 computers in 150 countries.

SOURCE: 29 May 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) Oregon – Two Men Stabbed to Death on Oregon Train Trying to Stop Anti-Muslim Rant

(U) Portland – A man fatally stabbed two passengers aboard a commuter train after they tried to stop him from harassing two young women who appeared to be Muslim, according to police. Police identified the assailant, who was arrested soon after the Friday afternoon attack, as Jeremy Joseph Christian of Portland, a 35-year-old convicted felon. The attack unfolded hours before the start of Ramadan, Islam’s holy month. The FBI is investigating the attack and has not determined whether or not it was an act of domestic terrorism or a federal hate crime.

SOURCE: 29 May 2017, [Reuters](#), [CNN](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Egypt – ISIS Claims Responsibility for Attack on Coptic Christians in Egypt that Killed 29

(U) Cairo – ISIS claimed responsibility for an attack on a bus loaded with Coptic Christians that killed 29 people, according to officials. “A security team of caliphate soldiers set up an ambush for dozens of Christians as they headed to the church of St. Samuel,” according to ISIS’ Amaq media wing. The attack, on the eve of the Muslim holiday of Ramadan, led Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi, to launch airstrikes on militant training camps in the northeastern Libyan city of Derna, according to officials.

SOURCE: 27 May 2017, [LA Times](#), [BBC](#)

(U) Philippines – 19 Killed During Military’s Push Against Jihadists

(U) Marawi – At least 19 civilians have been killed in continuing clashes between the armed forces of the Philippines and Islamist insurgents in the city of Marawi, according to officials. The military is attempting to recapture Marawi, on Mindanao Island, after it was recently overrun by jihadists. The Marawi region is a stronghold of the hardline Maute group, which has pledged allegiance to ISIS. The Philippines, which is majority Catholic, has faced Muslim separatist movements for decades in Mindanao with its significant Muslim population.

SOURCE: 28 May 2017, [BBC](#), [CNN](#)

(U) Philippines – Philippines’ 600-kilo Drug Seizure ‘Largest Crackdown with China

(U) Shanghai – Philippine authorities last week seized more than 600 kilograms of methamphetamines in the largest such bust since China launched a crackdown on drugs-smuggling in cooperation with the Southeast Asian nation, according to Chinese customs. China is the main source of methamphetamine in the Philippines, which is currently experiencing a crackdown on drugs waged by President Rodrigo Duterte. Two people arrested in a raid on 12 May told Chinese authorities they hid the drugs in five printing machines to smuggle them into the Philippines, according to customs officials.

SOURCE: 30 May 2017, [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

(U) United Kingdom – UK Police Arrest 16th Person in Connection with Manchester Attack

(U) Manchester – There have been 16 arrests in connection with the Manchester suicide bombing last week, according to British police. A 23-year-old man was arrested in Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, “on suspicion of offences contrary to the terrorism act,” according to the Greater Manchester Police. Two of

the 16 arrested have been released without charges, while 14 men remain in custody for questioning, according to the police.

SOURCE: 28 May 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) United Kingdom – UK Police Believe Manchester Attacker Made Bomb in City Apartment

(U) Manchester – British police on Saturday released a photograph of Salman Abedi on the night he killed 22 people in a suicide bomb attack in Manchester. The attacker is believed to have put the bomb together in an apartment in the city, according to police. “We know one of the last places Abedi went was the city center flat and from there he left to make his way to the Manchester Arena,” according to the Great Manchester Police Chief.

SOURCE: 27 May 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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